Memorandum

Subject: Department of Justice Response to the Final Report of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations

Date: February 15, 1983

To: William H. Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From: D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

As you are aware, the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) issued its final report on March 29, 1979. That report included recommendations that the Department of Justice evaluate specific physical evidence related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Department was also asked to review the HSCA findings regarding the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. The Criminal Division is currently preparing a report which describes the Department's response to the HSCA recommendations, for submission by the Attorney General to the House of Representatives.

In preparing the Department's report to Congress, we intend to discuss our efforts to examine the film owned by which the HSCA felt merited additional study. Criminal Division records indicate that through his attorney, negotiated with the FBI regarding conditions for loaning the film to the Bureau for scientific analysis. insisted upon conditions for review of the film which the FBI Laboratory felt would prevent adequate examination of that evidence. Consequently, then-Associate Deputy Attorney General Robert Keuch elected to decline offer to loan the film to the FBI. We would appreciate copies of the reports in your files which include details of the negotiations between the FBI and and of the FBI Laboratory's proposals for studying the film.

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It is envisioned that the Attorney General will report to the House of Representatives that all reasonable investigative efforts have been taken in both the President Kennedy and Dr. King assassination investigations. Accordingly, the Department will probably recommend that no further action be initiated in response to the HSCA report absent the emergence of new relevant evidence or information. I would appreciate your views regarding these proposed conclusions. In particular, I am interested in whether there are any investigative areas in either matter which you feel have not yet been adequately explored.

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I would like to take this opportunity to express the Division's appreciation of the efforts of Special Agent Joel Dean of the Personal Crimes Unit. Mr. Dean's substantive involvement and liaison work in the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination have been invaluable to the Criminal Division attorneys coordinating the Department's response to the HSCA report. The continuity provided to the investigation by Mr. Dean's three years in that assignment has been an important factor in our success in responding to numerous inquiries from both the Congress and the public.